

Harpers Ferry. February 23<sup>d</sup> 1864  
Dear Wife

The 22<sup>d</sup> of Feb the anniversary birthday of Washington was duly honored by the 14<sup>th</sup> N.H. Regt. in the following manner.

The whole Regt. was brought to a solid column in front of the Quarter Masters, where the band discoursed to us some of their best music, after which we had an appropriate piece sung by four of our best singers, then was read Washington's farewell address; at its close our quartette sang "God save the President," after which the band gave us some startling music, we then adjourned for half an hour when the great finale came off which consisted in the Bag race, the wheel barrow exercise and the greased-pig race.

The bag race was quite amusing - Ten men, one from each company was selected as competitors; they were encased in bags tied round their necks; the first one who reached a given point of about 10 rods, was to receive \$5.00, they

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all started together, some fell on the first start, others reached half way to the goal and down they went, two only succeeded in getting near the stake without falling, and in their great anxiety to win, they both tumbled within five feet of the goal, but both rolled and touched it at the same time, therefore they gave each of them \$3.

It was an amusing scene, and drew peal upon peal of laughter from the spectators.

The next came the wheelbarrow performance, which was performed in the following manner, a stake was driven in the ground being two feet high, another was drove two rods from that, the man was blindfolded placed his head as low as stake no. 1 and whirled three times round it, then taking a wheelbarrow which was placed near the stake in the direction of the other, the one who wheeled the nearest, recd, a prize of \$5. The winner was H.C. Heays of Co. F. <sup>who</sup> came as near as 20 inches of it, some would go almost in an opposite direction.

Next came the Pig race. Two nice fat pigs were bought shaved and greased, one of them was let loose at a time when 25 men started for the porker, the pigs being somewhat exhausted from

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barbours rough handling did not exhibit great activity and were soon caught. This was the closing scene. The boys retired feeling very well satisfied with the celebration of the birth day of Washington. The Officers paid for the pigs and the prizes. By the way Co. C. was the winner of one of the pigs and have given me an invitation to partake of it. They are building an oven on purpose to bake it in. Last night about 10 o'clock we recd. orders to be ready to march at a minutes notice with 5 days rations; it is now nearly 3 o'clock <sup>Tuesday</sup> ~~Tuesday~~ P.M. and we still remain here. I know not what direction we was to take.

Evening 9.15. We have just received an order to proceed without delay to Washington, we cannot get off before tomorrow night or the next day as we have some Scouts out which we shall have to send after. I don't know what we are going there for unless it is to get ready to go to New Orleans. I rather think it is sure prob if our going to W. still it may all blow over as everything is uncertain in war. I am glad to leave this place am willing to go most anywhere. I shall be glad

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to go to Washington so as to get my things.  
How many changes and vicissitudes there are in  
this world, especially in war times, but how happy  
I should feel if this war was closed. I have faith to  
believe it will be before the close of this year.  
The news we have had the past three days has  
been exceeding encouraging. I hope to receive  
a letter from you tomorrow before we start. I  
shall write to you as soon as I get to any place  
of refuge. I expect to breakfast off of roast  
pig. I hope I shall stay in Washington until  
after we get paid off so I can send you  
some money, and have a little for my own  
use. It is getting to be late and I must  
soon go to bed. I dreamed the other night  
what I told you I should, what did you  
dream about. I read your papers also  
the same day 2 for Hadwin. It has been  
quite warm and pleasant to day. My health  
remains good. Kiss Flora and the baby for me  
and I will kiss you when I come home, remember  
me to all our friends. Dont you think I better  
enlist into a Negro Regt. if I can?  
I dont know when you will hear from me again  
write often, and tell me all the news  
Your Ever True Husband J. Henry Jenks

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